

MINUTES
SOQUEL DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (SDSF)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 7, 2011
(Second Conformation)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Butler	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Patty Ciesla	Stewards of Soquel Forest
Eric Huff	Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Tim Hyland	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Terris Kastner	California Department of Fish and Game
Patricia Marland	Neighborhood Representative
Steve Staub	Registered Professional Forester
Donna Bradford	Santa Cruz County

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Larry Serpa	The Nature Conservancy
-------------	------------------------

GUESTS

Thomas Sutfin	Retired SDSF Forest Manager
Jodi Frediani	Sierra Club Central Coast Forest Watch
George Smith	Local Resident

STAFF

Angela Bernheisel	Forest Manager of SDSF
Elizabeth Lucas	SDSF
Julie Dufresne	SDSF
Jill Butler	CAL FIRE
Helge Eng	CAL FIRE Program Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Steve Staub, Chairman of the SDSF Advisory Committee.

2. REVIEW AGENDA AND DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

There are no Ex Parte Communications. A motion to amend the BYLAWS, section 6. ATTENDANCE by adding unexcused in front of absences was approved.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD OCTOBER 3, 2011.

The minutes were approved as conformed to correct spelling of names.

4. REVIEW AND UPDATES ON STATUS OF KEY PLANNED ACTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thomas Sutfin passed out copies of his “Presentation to the SDSF Advisory Committee.” The original GFMP was actually written in 1990-1992 and was an ambitious plan and attainable. Thomas preliminary review of the GFMP Planned Actions indicates the approximately 85-90 percent have been completed to date. Regarding the 1998 GFMP, Thomas believes it is a great plan and that it holds up well after 20 years.

Thomas recommends keeping plans for the Forest Education Center as a key part of SDSF future development. With over 7 million people within a 2-hour drive of the Forest, Soquel Forest has a tremendous potential for environmental education and research. Thomas suggests continuing to work on new access route as it is essential for SDSF to reach its long term potential.

Steve Butler suggests that Thomas Sutfin be an Ex Officio Technical Advisor to the Advisory Committee. Helge Eng said Thomas’s help is invaluable and he will check on the legal and administrative findings. A motion was passed to make Thomas Sutfin an Ex Officio Technical Advisor to the Advisory Committee.

Angela Bernheisel distributed “GFMP suggested changes/additions.” Her first day as Forest Manager of SDSF was October 3, 2011. Angela Bernheisel is the person of responsibility for SDSF and please contact her if you have questions or complaints. Angela gave us an update of what is happening in the Forest now. The UCSC Mountain Lion Study currently has bait sites in SDSF. SDSF staff is facilitating the Washington State University Madrone Plantation study.

Angela Bernheisel discussed the points in her document “GFMP suggested changes/additions.” Helge Eng suggested that we should stay within the umbrella of the existing EIR when making any changes to the GFMP.

The Committee took a 5 minute break.

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSS SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE INPUT ON OVERALL STRUCTURE AND PRIORITIES OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

Helge Eng said the Department, Board of Forestry and CAL FIRE prepares the update to the GFMP and brings it to the Advisory Committee for their suggestions and approval. Helge distributed “Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Policy” and reviewed this document. Jodi Frediani pointed out that section 4663 gives SDSF Advisory Committee authority to approve the general plan.

The document “Advisory Committee Comments on the Soquel DSF General Forest Management Plan 11-2-11” and Patricia Marland’s document “Proposed changes to Strike-out Draft of August 2011 SDSF GFMP” were distributed. Patty Ciesla didn’t submit written comments. She would like to see a Trail Plan and a Trail Network build-out in the Recreation section. Steve Staub

suggested that Recreation is not a dominate use of the forest but is part of the enjoyment and compatible use of the Forest.

Patricia Marland would like to see Forestry Education Center reinstated in the GFMP as the Public was very enthusiastic toward the Forestry Education Center. The entire Forest Education Center Section was deleted in the Draft GFMP and should be reinstated.

Steve Staub suggested that Access is a priority to see the full potential of the Forest realized. Steve Staub reviewed the Structure and Priority Items—Trails, Forestry Education Center, Assess issues, Harvest Unit Map and a correct Strike-out Draft GFMP.

Helge Eng said it was his fault that the Forestry Education Center was removed due to budget constraints but that it would be healthy to incorporate the Forestry Education Center in the GFMP.

The 1998 GFMP will be posted on line.

6. DISCUSS APPROACH TO INCORPORATING INPUT AND PROCEEDING WITH FUTURE PLAN REVIEW

Steve Staub said the deadline for all input to changes to GFMP should be documented to the SDSF staff by December 17, 2011. Angela will have the changes ready by April 2, 2012 and she will be happy to meet with any of the members to go over any changes they have.

Patricia Marland suggested that the meetings be announced in the Mountain Network News.

7. UPDATE ON STATUS OF RIM THP

The Rim Harvest is closed for the winter. Work will be resumed as early as May 1, 2012.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There are no public comments.

9. REVIEW DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be Monday, April 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMEND

Steve Staub adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Marland
Secretary, SDSF Advisory Committee